SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

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Mature Readers

Carole Curtis

Katmandu

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the inner circle

The inner circle

Well, if you're reading this, all the king's horses and all the king's men put Humpty Dumpty together again.

This has been a tumultuous year in furry fandom. In the past 3 weeks, two titles have left one publisher and gone to another. We acquired one, SHAWNTAE HOWARD'S **EXTINCTIONERS.** Ed Zolna's Mailbox Books is folding. This will have a great impact for the fandom, as many fanzines are only available through Ed.

It's been a tumultuous year for us too. The cancer in my eye forced it's removal. Three days later, my mother died. We haven't had much time to rest and reflect.

But we STILL persevere. We hope you will look at some of the books we are working on right now. **MAGIC CARPET** is a CHILDREN'S furry comic! Or you could say, it's one you can show to Mom and Dad and say "This is the kind of stuff I like" and not watch their eyeballs fall out.

NAUTILUS is here at last! And oh the books we have plans for....like the first **KATMANDU ANNUAL** for July! The lead story is by Carole and Mary Hanson-Roberts and is a crossover of **KATMANDU and HERE COMES A CANDLE!** And Carole is preparing a second **WOMEN IN FUR!**

Our best to all of you! Thanks for the support you have been giving us!

MIKE AND CAROLE

CAROLE CURTIS'S KATMANDU is published quarterly by **SHANDA FANTASY ARTS PO BOX 2452 CONWAY ARK 72032** shandafa@cyberback.com **KATMANDU** characters are copyright 1999 Carole Curtis. All art and stories are copyright the respective creators. Nothing from this book may be reproduced without the express written permission of the creators except for short excerpts for advertising and promotion. No similarity to any person place or thing is intended and any similarity is coincidental. Isn't Thea growing up? Issue 16 Printed at Mighty Morgan Printing.

Katmandu

CEREMONIES

sigh

FORMAL OCCASIONS ARE SUCH FUN~

LOANZAH!

GET IN HERE AND *PUT ON THIS DRESS!*

STORY: CAROLE CURTIS
COVER ART & PENCILS:
SHAWNTAE HOWARD
INKS: KEVIN MULDER
COVER MAGIC: SHANE FISHER
LETTERING: FENDER

HONESTLY!
MY ANKLES ARE SWOLLEN...
AND THAT GIRL WON'T GET READY!
MY BACK HURTS...

HA!
I HAVE YOU NOW, EMILIO!
SURRENDER!

COME HERE, LITTLE WARRIOR.
SEE YOU TOMORROW, EMILIO-
BYE, LOANZAH...

MILPUL! STOP RIDING YOUR LIZARD IN THE HOUSE!

GOTTA CATCH FLINT, DADDY!

I DON' WANNA WEAR A DRESS!

I'VE GOT THESE TWO DRESSING.

THERE, THERE, JONNY.

WHERE'S KEMAL?

PLAYING WITH JONATHAN.

I'M SO GLAD WE GOT HIM A PET.

SO AM I. HE'S SUCH A SHY CHILD.

WELL BEING DIFFERENT RUNS IN MY FAMILY. REMEMBER LISKA?

THE GODDESSS HAS A COURSE SET FOR HIM, TOO.

IS KEMAL STILL CUDDLING THAT **SHELLBACK**?

HEY, **WATCH** IT!

REMEMBER LAST TIME?

OH? WHAT HAPPENED?

MILPUL CALLED JONATHAN A NAME AND KEMAL KNOCKED HIM DOWN.

HM... JONATHAN MAY HAVE BEEN A BETTER IDEA THAN WE **THOUGHT**.

I'M GOING TO GET DRESSED, KITTENS.

DADDY HAS TO GO NOW.

FIRST LIEUTENANT THORIN LEONIUS REPORTING, SIR.

YOU CLEAN-UP WELL, LIEUTENANT.

THANK YOU, SIR.

THE CEREMONY IS SCHEDULED FOR 1100 HOURS. BE SURE YOUR DETAIL IS READY. THE FAMILIES OF SOME OF THE MEN LOST WILL BE THERE, TOO.

YES, SIR.

SERGEANT, THE LIEUTENANT'S HERE!

STILL BUSY WITH YOUR WOODCARVING, SERGEANT?

YES, SIR.

THIS ONE'S FOR MY NEPHEW.

SIR. . .KILMAS HAD NO FAMILY. WHO WILL ACCEPT HIS MEDAL?

YOU WILL. . . AND KEEP YOUR BEST FRIEND ALIVE IN YOUR MEMORY.

THERE. YOU LOOK SO PRETTY.

I DON' WANNA LOOK PRETTY.

THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR FATHER, CHILDREN. HE'S GOING TO BE DECORATED FOR THE WHITE RIVER ACTION. YOU **ALL** NEED TO BE NICE AND QUIET.

HERE'S THE OTHER ONE, MOTHER.

THE DRIVER'S WAITING TO TAKE US TO THE CEREMONY.

LET'S GO.

I HOPE YOU'LL DRESS AS PRETTY WHEN YOU HAVE YOUR COMING-OF-AGE, LOANZAH.

WHAT HAPPENS THEN?

OH, YOU'LL HAVE TO FAST, AND PRAY TO THE GODDESS...

DO BOYS HAVE A CEREMONY?

YES, BUT TODAY I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY OF THEA'S CEREMONY.

YOU MUST PROMISE TO BE QUIET.

WELL? WHAT DO YOU THINK, THEA?

HM~

THAT IT'S A GOOD THING THE BOYS CAN'T SEE US!

SHAARYN, THIS WAS A GREAT IDEA!

THEY'RE HAVING MANHOOD CEREMONIES NEXT WEEK.

I THINK IT'S OVERDUE FOR THE DARK-HAIRED BOY. DID YOU SEE?

YES. HE MUST LIKE TO WRESTLE.

OOH! LOOK AT GILES!

OH, GODDESS!

sigh

NO USE PINING, SINCE NEITHER OF US HAS HAD OUR COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONIES.

MINE'S SOON.

YOU? BUT YOU HAVEN'T--

YES, I DID. IT CAME LAST MOON.

I ENVY YOU. YOU'RE ALMOST A REAL WOMAN. WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

IT HURT BUT I'M GLAD IT CAME.

MOTHER GAVE ME A RACING LIZARD FOR MY DOWRY. MOTHER SHAYGIN HAS BEEN WORKING ON MY DRESS FOR THREE TURNS NOW.

THEN--

SOON I CAN DO MORE THAN JUST LOOK!

FATHER!

WE SAW YOU FIRST TODAY.

WHAT DID YOU BRING US?

A BIG FAT CHUKKA FOR STEWING, *IF* YOUR MOTHER HASN'T FORGOTTEN HOW TO COOK.

OH, *SHE* REMEMBERS, FATHER. SEE OUR FIREWOOD?

YOU'RE NOT OUT HERE **ALONE**, ARE YOU?

OF COURSE NOT. THEIR UNCLE PYNDAN IS WATCHING OVER THEM. NO SLAVERS WOULD DARE COME NEAR.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D BE CLOSE BY.

YOU'VE HAD ME NEAR SINCE FIRST I SAW YOU, LISKATAM.

HM.

I WANNA BE A WARRIOR LIKE YOU.

YOU WILL, LIISHAN.

WHY DON'T WE SEND THE KITTENS BACK TO CAMP WITH THE CHUKKA AND WOOD--

AND PLAY STALK THE PREY?

IT'S THE WRONG TIME.

SWEET MORN, GILES.

DID YOU BATHE TODAY?

YOUR FUR'S WET.

HM? YEAH, GETTING CLEANED-UP FOR MY MANHOOD CEREMONY.

I'M HAVING MY CEREMONY SOON.

OH?

OH!

YOU KNOW, MY BROTHER, LIISHAN, HAS DARK MARKINGS ON HIS FACE.

*

I LIKE THEM.

I-- LIKE DARK FUR, TOO.

YOU'VE GOT DARK FUR ON YOUR HANDS.

UHHH--

ANY-WHERE ELSE?

YOUR DAUGHTER'S MAKING PLANS.

OH?

YOU KNOW, AFTER YOU RECEIVE YOUR WARRIOR SASH... IF YOU'D LIKE...

YOU COULD CATCH SOMETHING AND I'D COOK A MEAL FOR YOU.

REALLY? YOU'D DO THAT?

SURE, FOR A MIGHTY HUNTER AND PROVIDER.

YOUR MOTHER HAS A TALKING BIRD.

I COULD TRY AND CATCH ONE FOR YOU. --IF THAT'S OKAY.

I'D LIKE THAT.

MY MOTHER'S ARE WORKING ON MY DOWRY. I'VE GOT A LOT OF COOKING POTS, SKINS AND BLANKETS AND EVEN A RACER!

WOW--

THEA!

OOPS!

GILES, I FORGOT I HAVE TO HELP MOTHER FIX A STEW--

OH. WELL, I'LL SEE YOU--

MOTHER SONNA, WHAT'S GOING ON?

WELL... THEA...

SHE'S JUST LIKE RIAL. WHEN *HIS* TIME CAME, HE WENT HUNTING, BUT NOT FOR GAME.

sigh

SHE'S REALLY BUDDED-OUT.

HAS SHE ACTUALLY HAD HER FIRST CYCLE?

YES, A FEW DAYS AGO, WISSA.

WELL, THE DOWRY'S READY AND WASIL'S ALMOST FINISHED WITH THE CRADLEBOARD.

SHAYGIN'S MAKING A HERB BAG FOR HER.

GIRL, YOU ARE **TOO YOUNG** TO HAVE A RING THROUGH YOUR EAR!

I WON'T BE MUCH LONGER, MOTHER, AND I'M HUNTING **EARLY**--

BEFORE THE **BEST** ONES ARE GONE!

SHOO! GO GET THE BABIES FROM WASIL, I NEED TO FEED THEM.

YES, MOTHER.

AND DAUGHTER, IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL, YOU'LL HAVE YOUR OWN TO FEED.

WHO WILL GIFT THEA WITH HER SHURINUR STONES?

SHAYGIN-- WE KNOW SHE'LL GET IT RIGHT!

YEAH, I KNOW, KUATO...

NOBODY'S NOTICED US YET...

HEY, LITTLE SISTER.

WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH... HELLO, HESTA. GLAD YOU'RE BACK.

WHAT A WELCOME! SOMETHING WRONG?

sigh THEA'S COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY.

SONNA, SHAYGIN, WASIL AND WISSA ARE PLANNING IT AND THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO DO.

EVEN THOUGH YOU GAVE BIRTH TO HER.

YEAH...

AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

OW! THEY'RE SCREAMING A LOT, MOTHER.

THEY HAVE BIG APPETITES.

COME TO MAMA, KITTENS.

DON'T SMIRK... I USED TO HOLD *YOU* HERE, YEARS AGO.

HESTA'S COME INTO THE VILLE...

giggle

WHY DON'T YOU LOOK THROUGH YOUR THINGS FOR TRADE GOODS?

OOH! HESTA ALWAYS PICKS UP GREAT STUFF IN HER TRAVELS!

AND *MAYBE* IT'LL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF BOYS FOR A WHILE~

WELL, THERE'S THE YOUNG **WOMAN** NOW!

DID YOU BRING ME ANYTHING, AUNT HESTA?

I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOUR CEREMONY.

ANYTHING ELSE IS TRADE.

HESTA, WHEN YOUR PEOPLE MATE, DO THE FEMALES PIERCE THEIR EARS?

NO, THEA.

WELL, YOU WEAR A WARRIOR **SASH.**

THAT'S **YOUR** CUSTOM. I WEAR IT SO PEOPLE WON'T-- GIVE ME TROUBLE.

THIS RIBBON IS NICE. HOW MUCH IS IT?

LISKA SAYS TWO AND A HALF.

AH, TWO AND A HALF.

OH! I'VE GOT THAT--

STIR THIS, PLEASE, WISSA.

SHAYGIN'S IN YOUR TENT. GO TALK TO HER, DAUGHTER.

I'D BETTER. IT'S TIME.

HA! THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SPRAY MOMMY, DIDN'T YOU? BUT SHE'S TOO FAST! RAISING TEN CHILDREN DOES THAT FOR YOU!

HOW ARE MY SONS, SHAYGIN?

FIESTY! AND THEY HAVE STRONG JAWS!

SPREAD OUR FURS.

I GOT THE RIBBON I WANTED!

LISKA, YOU WERE... DIFFERENT, TODAY.

WHAT'S WRONG, DEAREST?

SHAYGIN...

MY BEAUTIFUL WIFE OF SO MANY YEARS...

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU.

CONTINUED

[Here are the site addresses : (http://www.geocities.com/TimesSquare/Portal/9119/SHANDA/) KATMANDU website (http://www.furnation.com/katmandu/)]

From the Scratching Post

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Hi! It's been a VERY busy few months since the last KATMANDU. Michael has had an eye removed due to cancer, and his mother died. We are also printing 28 books this year! Ten of them are planned for ConFurence. Shawntae Howard, in addition to doing the pencils for KATMANDU, is also the writer/penciller for his own book, EXTINCTIONERS. This is one of the 10 books we have coming out in April/May, 1999 for ConFurence, although it is solicited for June. ENJOY! Carole

I'm certainly glad to hear that you and Mike persevere. **Thanks!** The cover on #15 was very beautiful and has a very magical sense to it. **Beautiful work by Shane Fisher and Shawntae Howard from my concept. Michael did the first pencil.** I wonder how long it will take for Rial to give in and accept Liska's warrior status. **He's STILL working on it up to his death.** I felt sorry for Pyndan when he went looking for them and found them at an inappropriate time. **Yes, but he loves both of them enough to step back and let them work out things for themselves.** (Liska) can defend and hold her own in any situation, that's one reason why I love her too. Can't wait for #16. **Here it is!** Tail High, George Ferrocarril

Hi again. Went back to the SHANDA FANTASY ARTS website. I've been writing since I was 12 and I'm thinking about trying a story for KATMANDU, SHANDA, or NEW HORIZONS and I wanted to see the script style you prefer. Any suggestions? Ed Smith **If you are not ALSO doing the art/pencils, then it is best for the artist if you write breakdowns. Breakdowns are a panel-by-panel description with dialogue of WHO is in the panel and WHAT they are doing. It also includes WHAT is in the background.**

I collect KATMANDU and like it very much. The stories are new and the art is A1. I went to your website today and found something confusing. The net site says she is blonde. In the comic, Liska is drawn (sometimes) as a brunette. The few times that she was shown with light hair could be explained by the fact that brown hair can be illustrated both ways. Riger **Liska has orange-blonde hair. Leahtrah has copper-brown hair. Some of the shading differences are because the artists/inkers/colorists are showing them at night. Also, let's be real.... In a black-and-white comic, light hair needs less ink and dries faster.**

I finally got my hands on KATMANDU 15 and SHANDA 23. SHANDA was easy to spot, but KAT 15 wasn't. I passed it 3 times before I realized it was there. It was the cover. It looks like a big sales comic. I had to open it up to see if it was KATMANDU. It's the best cover I've seen. It looked so mystic that I didn't even recognize it. **Shane made me a poster of the cover, and it is on the "brag wall" in the office.** When I read it, I found one surprise after another. One I liked was "I! AM! NOT! YOUR! COOK! OR! BEDSLAVE! The looks on Pyndan and Rial's faces were priceless. **Shawntae really knew what I wanted there.** Then Pyndan's calm reaction, telling Liska to talk it out with Rial. At first I was puzzled. Then it came to me that Liska knows how to use a knife. If she'd wanted to cut him with that strike, she would have. She just wanted him to shut his mouth and respect her wishes. **Rial was/is/and always shall be hard-headed and quick-tempered. That doesn't mean he's stupid, just that he has to learn to think before acting. This must be balanced by the fact that in those times, people who spent too much time thinking, instead of acting, DIED.** That walk they took also explained why he was acting like that. Deep down he was scared of losing her because even deeper down he really loves her. **Rial and Pyndan both love Liska. They just love her different ways. The more love and affection you have for one true friend, the more you have to give to other true friends.** Carole, I must say, you have outdone yourself here. **Thanks!** So Liska chose to be a warrior. That means that one day she'll die as a warrior. I don't know if you do favors or not, but let Liska die in the loving arms of Shaygin and her family. **That is in the hands of the Goddess.** Michael Nicks

Carole, I'm afraid I'm a little bit confused on the source of Rial's jealousy. Is it simply a dominance "thing"? **It is not just an alpha-male reaction. There are many different components within his stubborn intransigence. See the letter above for part of the reasons.** Yet in the "Changes" storyline (by Ted Vollmer) he has no problem taking orders from Wissa. Or does this have to do with her status as a Healer? **This is partly due to Wissa's status. However, "Changes" is set in the future, when Rial has had a few more years and experiences under his belt.** But then why can't he accept Liska's status as a warrior? Sounds like Rial needs a cold shower – or at least an airing of views! **Rial has been hit with too many changes in too short a time. He was a seasoned warrior, then became a prisoner/slave. He was sold at a loss to the very woman who he had himself captured and enslaved. He had less value than a pretty bedslave. To make things even MORE complicated, not only does Liska own him within the rules of his tribe, she owns him in the eyes of his grandmother, Mother Sanna. Liska CHOOSES to free him and take him as her mate, if he is willing. He doesn't have a choice of whether he can be freed. To add an even greater stress to the mix, SHE has the same warrior status as that which he had lost to slavery.** Still, it's good seeing the world outside the ville again – both good and bad. **Rial and Liska must learn to accept each other's strengths and weaknesses and differences! The trip served two purposes. Rial has to acknowledge her worth as a warrior and companion, and Liska Must go through her ceremony to be fully accepted by the diehards of her adopted ville.** Liska's loneliness was tangible and real, and the scenes in which she and Shaygin think of each other are warm and well handled. As were the scenes with Kress-ka. Kress-ka definitely comes across as a very real personality, and I wouldn't mind seeing her character re-appear in some other story. Noel Williamson, Ireland

I was only recently introduced into the world of anthropomorphics and managed to stumble across your webpage. I was disappointed to find that many of the early issues from both the KATMANDU and SHANDA comics are no longer being sold. I was wondering if you were planning on selling reprints anytime soon. Thankx! Michael Wang **We DID do a reprint of KATMANDU 1-3. We also quickly learned that it is not cost-effective for such a small company. We would like to do reprints. However, we would rather publish new books and get more writers/artists/inkers/letterers/colorists work out where others can see. That's it for now. Tail High, Friends! Carole**

"Hesta"

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